

those negotiations was, of course, Senator Hannibal. Another principal individual in those negotiations was Senator Landis. Senator Landis' amendment was his own proposal after these negotiations. This amendment that we are offering and that he graciously agreed to let us offer prior to his amendment is, I believe, an attempt to accommodate in every way any of the even slightly legitimate arguments against the bill. So, for example, the amendment does about three things. Number one, it lowers the interest rate to 10 percent from 14 in most cases and you will get further explanation from Senator Hannibal on that. The second thing it does is...quick, what is the second thing? It has to do with the confession of judgment and, of course, Senator Hannibal can explain that in more depth too. No, I am serious. He has worked on these and I think he should have the chance to explain them better than I. The third thing has to do with jury instructions. This overcomes the hurdle or argument that...it overcomes the argument that the jury might give double damages or double interest by informing the jury well in advance not to calculate in the damages any interest, that that will be done separately by the court and that may or may not be something we ultimately stick with, but at least it is part of the amendments at this time. And with that, I would defer to Senator Hannibal for a very detailed explanation as to the justification and origin and reasons for these amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker and members, I think I would like to ask Gary Rex to come back and stand by me, but based on the job John did I am not sure I need any of his help. I became an innocent bystander on this bill when it came to the floor and got involved because I basically felt that the concept was right. And when Senator Landis offered to hold some negotiation meetings, he asked that I attend along with, I think, three other senators and, quite frankly, I was not able to be there for the entire session. I was back and forth because I was in Appropriations. But I do rise to support the amendment that was offered as Senator DeCamp explained. And I think it is important to just talk about the concept of the bill, first of all. The concept of the bill is prejudgment interest. Now the idea behind it is that when there is a wrong, when you are injured that you have the idea of the law, the idea of tort claims is to make you whole if you have a valid claim. Now to make you as